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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/504,751	08/17/2004	Diego Melpignano	IT 020008	5555

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EXAMINER

HUANG, WEN WU

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2618

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/504,751

Applicant(s)

MELPIGNANO, DIEGO

Examiner

Wen W. Huang

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-14 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 5-14 and 17 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-4, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Crosbie et al. (US. Pub. 2002/0114303 A1; hereinafter "Crosbie")

Regarding **claim 1**, Crosbie teaches a communications device (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 24 and para. [0031], lines 19-23) including
a group of wireless communications modules integrated therein (see Crosbie, fig. 1, components 24-1, 24-2 and 24-3),

each of which wireless communications modules is configurable as a master unit in a shared resources network (see Crosbie, fig. 3, component 38 and para. [0056], line 4 – para. [0057], line 4) and comprises its own native clock for clocking said wireless communications module independently of the native clock of any other said module (see Crosbie, fig. 6, components 64-1 and 64-2 and para. [0065], lines 1-5),

each said wireless communications module further comprising its own baseband controller and a transceiver (see Crosbie, para. [0077], line 5 and para. [0031], lines 19-28) and being adapted for wireless communication (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 28 and para. [0034], lines 8-12) with one or more user terminals (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 26) by transmission of packets in timeslots defined by said native clock of said radio module (see Crosbie, para. [0034], lines 4-7),

each said wireless communications module further comprising at least one external input (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 33 and para. [0032], lines 4-5) through which in use is supplied a signal (see Crosbie, para. [0042], lines 3-5) which is used to substantially synchronize said modules in such a manner that packets transmissions from two said wireless communications modules integrated into the same said communications device are synchronized (see Crosbie, para. [0043], lines 1-4).

Regarding **claim 2**, Crosbie also teaches the device according to claim 1, wherein said wireless communications modules are synchronized by synchronization of their native clocks (see Crosbie, para. [0036], lines 1-5 and para. [0065], lines 1-5).

Regarding **claim 3**, Crosbie also teaches the device according to claim 1, wherein said synchronization is achieved by each said baseband controller (see Crosbie, para. [0077]) writing substantially simultaneously the same pre-assigned value (see Crosbie, para. [0072], lines 1-2) into a native clock register of its respective said wireless communications module (see Crosbie, para. [0072], lines 8-12).

Regarding **claim 4**, Crosbie teaches the device according to claim 3, wherein said baseband controller is prompted (see Crosbie, para. [0043], lines 21-22) through a said external input (see Crosbie, para. [0040], lines 6-8) to write said pre-assigned value (see Crosbie, para. [0072], lines 1-12), preferably on initialization of said device (see Crosbie, para. [0093]).

Regarding **claim 15**, Crosbie teaches a method of operating a radio communications device (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 24 and para. [0031], lines 19-23) which includes a group of wireless communications modules integrated therein (see Crosbie, fig. 1, components 24-1, 24-2 and 24-3), the method including:

- a) configuring each said wireless communications module as a master unit of a shared resources network (see Crosbie, fig. 3, component 38 and para. [0056], line 4 – para. [0057], line 4);

- b) clocking each said wireless communications module independently of any other said wireless communications module in said group by using a respective native

clock for each said wireless communications module (see Crosbie, fig. 6, components 64-1 and 64-2 and para. [0065], lines 1-5);

c) engaging in wireless communication (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 28 and para. [0034], lines 8-12) with one or more user terminals (see Crosbie, fig. 1, component 26) by one or more of said wireless communications modules transmitting packets in timeslots defined by said native clocks (see Crosbie, para. [0034], lines 4-7); and

d) substantially aligning said timeslots between said wireless communications modules (see Crosbie, para. [0042], lines 3-5 and para. [0043], lines 1-4).

Regarding **claim 16**, Crosbie also teaches the method according to claim 15, whereby said method ensures that there is no or reduced partial collision between packet transmissions of two said radio modules integrated into the same said communications device (see Crosbie, para. [0066], lines 10-11).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Heinonen et al. (US. 6,795,421 B1) teach an access point with a plurality of communication modules.

Eng et al. (US. 6,771,933 B1) teach a scaleable Bluetooth access point.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wen W. Huang whose telephone number is (571) 272-7852. The examiner can normally be reached on 10am - 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay A. Maung can be reached on (571) 272-7882. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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4/26/06


NAY MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER